/86 cont./

A M 145 125 532 [153] The self-criticism that the children exhibit even at an early age was surprising. Some Akha children about ten years old repeatedly refused to draw because "their lines did not look like the things they wanted to draw." In contrast, the really primitive people, the Phi Tong Luang (1), behaved quite

1. Bernatzik, IV, pp. 174 ff.

differently. Here even the adults scribbled for hours and then explained to me circumstantially what the lines, which in no instance went beyond the scribbling stage, were supposed to mean.

In conclusion it should be said that neither among the Meau nor the Akha did the talent for drawing disappear at a certain age, as we often find among European children (see also the chapter, "Art," the section on "Painting, Sculpture, Ornamentation," and the chapter, "Talent, Knowledge, Character, Morality, and Manners").

/87/ d) Sexual Development

A M 836 Among the Meau as well as among the Akha, unmarried young people enjoy extensive sexual freedom, which is documented by other author[illegible] the Meau of other regions as well (1).

1. Eberhard II, pp. 253, 255, 256, 258, 261; also Chin. Repos., 14, p. 110.

M 864 [513] The children of the Meau, separated according to sex, sleep in their own sleeping quarters or at least in their own beds; only the small children sleep with their mothers. They therefore have no opportunity to gather experience by observing the adults. If they occasionally ask questions of a M [825] sexual nature, the adults answer truthfully, provided that the children are somewhat bigger. Small children, however, are

/87 cont./

M told that the gibbons and monkeys, which animate the
● 864 primeval forest in the neighborhood of the villages, put the
[825] babies in the laps of the women. Thus, among the Meau, the apes occupy the position of our stork. The explanation of the facts of life is given to the children of the Meau at the time of puberty at the latest.

A Onanism, homosexuality, and other sexual perversions
M are not found among either the Akha or the Meau. In most
838 instances I did not even succeed in explaining these concepts
839 to my informants, but when I did, they indignantly denied their occurrence, pointing out that the ancestors and spirits would prevent such perversions.

A Within the incest prohibitions, which apply not only
M to marriage, but also to free love (see the section, "Marriage
836 Obstacles and Regulations," in this chapter) and are strictly
626 observed, since a violation, according to the belief of the
[835] natives, would be immediately punished by the ancestors and
[831] spirits, the choice of a partner is completely free for the young men, whereas public opinion, but not the young men themselves, demands chastity of the girl. In practice, however, the demands of public opinion only result in secrecy, by boys as well as girls, about everything that is connected with sexual life.

A In the case of younger boys, the older girls take the
M initiative by flirtation, at which they are masterfully adept.
836 It often happens that a girl who teaches a young boy /88/ the
[832] arts of love-making later on becomes his chief wife, since she
[833] most likely will become pregnant. Older boys, on the other hand, often assume the training of the young girls. We frequently had an opportunity to observe an open flirtation. My
M 832 wife wrote about one such observation in her journal: "May,
883 the chief's daughter, is probably about sixteen years old and is
123 a typical 'teen-ager' in behavior. She giggles at the least thing or bursts into loud peals of laughter over a remark shouted at her by one of the boys. It is loudest, however, when several girls are assembled. They chatter and laugh so loudly and unrestrainedly, even when we are working nearby, that we are